

for construction of hotels. However, it includes a Plan Outlay of Rs. 15 crores on account of on-going scheme of a 100-room 5-star hotel project at Chandigarh.

(c) and (d) The Government has accepted the recommendations of Disinvestment Commission in regard to ITDC. So far Hotel operations of ITDC are concerned, the main recommendations of the Commission are as under:—

"(i) Hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to be run on a long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis.

(ii) Other Hotels may be de-merged into separate corporate identities and the disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government shareholdings in them."

(e) None of ITDC hotels achieved 90% occupancy rate during the last 2 years.

(f) The plan outlay of ITDC for 2000-2001 comprising of Rs. 60 Crores inter-alia includes renovation/improvement in existing Hotels, expansion of facilities in existing Hotels, spill over of new schemes viz. Hotel at Chandigarh, etc.

Excavation of Harappan Civilisation

283. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHADRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three year long excavation of Rakhigarhi in Haryana has unearthed the remains of what could have been the "Provincial Capital" of the Harappan Civilisation in Hissar district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to preserve the area as a unique historical place and continue the excavation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rakhigarhi in Hissar district, Haryana was probably a major urban centre at the eastern edge of the Harappan empire and, could in that sense, be considered a Provincial Capital.

The three consecutive excavations conducted at the site since 1997-98 onwards have yielded remains/evidence of public building and drainage, in addition to the evidence of activities of specialized crafts and long distance trade in material which were not available locally.

A good number of diagnostic artifacts recovered from the site include terracotta figurines; pieces of ornaments of gold, silver, copper, shell, semi-precious stones, steatite, faience, clay, bone, etc., stone weights, seals and sealings. In addition lithic and ceramic assemblages have also been found. A Harappan cemetery has also been identified.

The site has also yielded evidence of a pre-Harappan settlements.

(c) The considerable findings unearthed so far need careful analysis before further excavations can be considered.

Agreement on Tourism with Indonesia

†284. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Indonesia have entered into an accord this year in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the extensive details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether Gujarat State would also be benefited from this accord; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which Government propose to encourage the Gujarat State in the field of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed on 8.2.2000 in New Delhi. The Memorandum of Understanding aims at:

(i) Increasing tourist arrivals to both countries.

(ii) Encouraging a wider distribution of visitors to the various tourist destinations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.